

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 02430 251421Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----087905 251426Z /41

P R 251330Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1630
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USUN NEW YORK 169
BT
S E C R E T SANA 2430

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR,US, YS
SUBJECT: U.S. INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SOUTH YEMEN

: STATE 144046

1. ON EVENING JUNE 23 AT DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION I HAD FIRST
OPPORTUNITY TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTER ABDALLAH AL-ASNAJ SINCE
RECEIPT OF REFTEL. DRAWING ON SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE,
8 8,*94.3\$ -)-ASNAJ OF OUR DESIRE TO TRY TO IMPROVE RELATIOONS
WITH SOUTH YEMEN.

2. AL-ASNAJ REPLIED IN NON-COMMITTAL FASHION BUT NOTED THAT
HE DOUBTS THAT PDRY REGIME WILL REPLY QUICKLY TO US INITIA-
TIVE BECAUSE OF SUSPICIONS WITHIN THE PDRY REGIME THAT THE
US IS NOW BEHIND CURRENT EFFORTS IN RED SEA REGION TO STRENGTHEN
MODERATES AND ISOLATE RADICAL STATES LIKE ETHIOPIA AND

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PDRY. AL-ASNAJ CONCLUDED THAT IN ANY EVENT YARG APPRECIATES
USG'S DESIRE TO RE-ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH ALL ARAB STATES
AND HE WISHED USG LUCK WHILE AT SAME TIME HOPING USG WILL
CONTINUE TO KEEP YARG INFORMED.

3. COMMENT: AS IN THE PAST, AL-ASNAJ EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM
THAT PDRY REGIME REALLY PREPARED TO MODERATE ITS EXTREMIST

POLICIES. AT THE SAME TIME, HE AND OTHERS IN THE YARG
HAVE ALSO FELT THAT USG SHOULD AT LEAST MAKE EFFORT TO
PROBE PDRY INTENTIONS. I ALSO BELIEVE THIS IS GOOD TACK
AT PRESENT TIME AND LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER INFORMATION
CONCERNING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH CAN BE PASSED ON TO YARG.
IN THIS CONNECTION I DID NOT INFORM AL-ASNAJ OF THE
JUNE 23 ATHERTON-ASHTAL MEETING IN THE ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC
INSTRUCTIONS. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT AT LEAST IN THE
CASE OF YARG WE SHOULD BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE ON
SUCH DETAILS INASMUCH AS (A) YEMENIS ARE GOING TO FIND
OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN ANY CASE, AND (B) THERE ARE CONCERNS
AND SUSPICIONS HERE ABOUT PDRY INTENTIONS TOWARDS
YARG AS WELL AS SAUDI INTENTIONS TOWARDS BOTH YEMENS.
WE SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE, THEREFORE, NOT TO GET CAUGHT
IN THE MIDDLE OF SUCH PAROCHIAL CONCERNS
ALWAYS KEEPING IN MIND OUR GROWING INVESTMENT IN NORTH
YEMEN. ALSO BELIEVE EMBASSY KHARTOUM SHOULD BE ADDRESSEE
AND SUDANESE GOVT BE KEPT INFORMED, GIVEN SUDANESE INVOLVEMENT
IN RED SEA AFFAIRS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Sent Date: 25-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
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